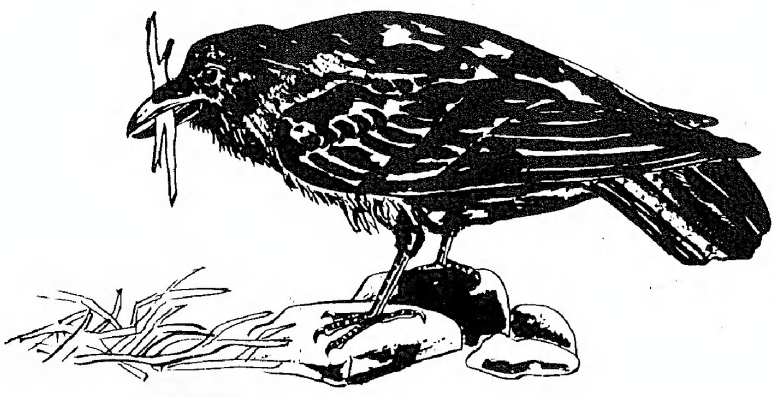
BULLETIN OF THE TEXAS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



VOLUME 1 NUMBERS 3 & 4
August-October 1967

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Scientific Names And Their Pronunciation

KEITH A. ARNOLD

Introduction

Many bird-watchers and amateur ornithologists are aware of the difficulties encountered when common names are used for plants and animals and why, for this reason, scientific names are so important. As many species of birds are found on more than one continent, a species may be known by a different colloquial name in each region in which a different language is spoken and in many cases the same species will be known by several common names within an area using the same language throughout. For example, the woodcock of North America is known in the United States by such diverse names as Brush Snipe, Wood Snipe, Hill Partridge, Hog Borer, and Bog Borer, among others (Mendall and Aldous, 1943, Maine Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit Contributions, Orono). Matters have been further complicated in the past by attempts to provide a common name for each subspecies! Thus, the warbler Geothlypis trichas is known to birders in one part of the United States as the Common Yellowthroat and in another part of the country as the Maryland Yellowthroat. Finally, to complicate matters more, many birds are known locally to non-birders by other names; e.g., in the southern United States nighthawks are called "bull-bats" and several species of warblers and buntings are collectively known as "pop-ups."

The use of scientific names, then, is based on the premise that any person should be able to recognize a name, regardless of that person's native language or the region of his origin. Since scientific names are based on Latin (or on words with Latin endings), the names should remain unchanged through time. When scientific names appear in print, little difficulty arises. To be utilitarian, however, these same names must also appear in the spoken language. It is here that so many difficulties arise.

Differences Between Languages

The most obvious difficulty is that almost every language has certain peculiarities in pronunciation, especially when vowels are considered. As an example, the Spanish language adheres rather strictly to: ah(a); eh(e); ie(i); oh(o); and u(as the o in who). The English language, on the other hand, changes pronunciation of the vowels in relation to different consonants and other vowels. Too, the hardness or guttural quality of the Germanic tongues might be cited in contrast to the softer tones of the Romance languages such as French, Spanish, and Italian.

Many other examples could be cited concerning differences in

pronunciation such as combinations of vowels or consonants, double letters, etc., but this generally is outside the needs for most of us in the Texas Ornithological Society. One need not look to other languages for problems in pronunciation.

The English Language

The difficulties that arise in the pronunciation of the English language are, in many ways, representative of the difficulties encountered between languages. In every English speaking country are peculiarities that are "foreign" to every other country that claims the English language as its official tongue. Compounding the difficulties are the numerous local differences that occur within a country. Persons in the United States are familiar with such regional accents as those associated with the South, the West, the Midwest, and the New England states. Top this with the many oddities inherent within the structure of the English language and it becomes easy to understand why persons from foreign lands find it difficult to master our language.

These many perculiarities of the English language are naturally carried over into our use of scientific names, even though these names are based on Latin. Generally, the Latin rules of pronunciation are ignored. For example, the ending -ae in Latin should be pronounced "eye," yet we say "ie." And we are far from being consistent. Even though the English language is filled with silent letter combinations such as the words "psychology" and "although," many of these combinations are ignored in the pronunciation of scientific names. In ornithology the Greek word for wing (ptera) is often used. Whenever this stem is used to form a name, the silent "p" is almost without exception pronounced with emphasis. The genus of the flightless Kiwi of New Zealand is named, appropriately, Apteryx (without wings). Even though the -p of the Greek stem is silent, almost everyone will say: "Ap-ter-icks." For a perhaps more familiar example, the generic name of the flamingos is Phoenicopterus with the usual pronunciation of "Feen-i-cop-ter-us." If the -p remained silent, as in the Greek stem, the name would be pronounced as "Feen-i-co-ter-us."

Consistency is not part of the English language. Whenever this same pt- combination appears as the initial letters of a scientific name, the p- remains silent. Two examples that come quickly to mind are Pterodroma, a genus of petrel, and Pteroglossus, a genus of toucan. The pronunciations of these names are, respectively, "Ter-o-drom-a" and "Ter-o-glos-sus." Other silent letter combinations are maintained in the pronunciation of scientific names. Is it any wonder that a person learning to speak the English language is often confused?

Placement Of Accents

Granted that we could all reach agreement upon pronunciation of vowels, silent letters, and other combinations of letters, the sound of spoken words may be greatly affected by placement of the accents.
(*Continued on Page* 15)

Common Raven In Hill Country Of Edwards Plateau

COL. L. R. WOLFE

The distribution and nesting of the Common Raven (Corvus corax) in Texas are not well known. The AOU Check-list (Fifth ed., 1957, 378) gives the range in western Texas as "— Pecos, Fort Davis, formerly east to Tom Green County." Bent (Life Histories of N. A. Jays, Crows, and Titmice, 1946, 213) says "East — formerly to central Texas (San Angelo)." The reference to Tom Green County and San Angelo probably originated from a report by Lloyd (Birds of Tom Green and Concho Counties, Texas, Auk, 4, 1887, 290) that on May 14, 1883, he found a "nest with six eggs" in a mesquite. However, in my opinion, this identification is questionable because the date is far too late for eggs of the Common Raven and both the nesting site and the date as well as the locality are all typical for the White-necked Raven (C. crypto leucus). McBee, Keefer, and Fisk (Check-list of the Birds, Region of El Paso, 1959) do not mention the Common Raven. Burleigh and Lowery (Birds of the Guadalupe Mountain Region of western Texas, 1940, 116) noted two observations and stated that this species might breed sparingly. Van Tyne and Sutton (Birds of Brewster County, Texas, 1937, 62) reported two nests but gave no details. LeSassier (list of Birds Reported from Crockett County, Texas, 1960-1966) reported nesting in March and April and observations in five months.

From the above brief outline of the status of the Common Raven in Texas it may surprise many Texas bird enthusiasts to learn that this species is a regular resident in Edwards, Kerr, and Kimble Counties. I have observed two pairs in both Edwards and Kimble counties and know the nesting areas of five pairs in Kerr County. In parts of its range the Common Raven is known to nest in trees but it is primarily a cliff nester in the Rocky Mountains. In the far north, beyond the tree limit, it nests only on cliffs. A cliff or ledge of any height may be utilized and the nest may be placed in any suitable pot-hole, crevice, or shelf, sometimes openly exposed, other times well concealed behind a boulder or projecting slab. A pair will usually occupy the same cliff or other nesting site year after year. If there are several possible nesting places on the home cliff, however, a different location may be used on successive years. If there is only one suitable nesting spot on the cliff the same nest will be used. The nest may be repaired with additional sticks and a new lining each year. In the Edwards Plateau region all nests observed have been either on a cliff or in the roof of a cave. One nest investigated in Edwards County on April 15, 1958, was in a most unusual situation. This nest was in a sink hole approximately 30 feet below the surface of the ground. This sink hole

(Continued on Page 8)

GUEST EDITORIAL:

The Endangered Quetzal

WARREN PULICH

Frequently members of T.O.S. and other conservation-minded groups ask how they can assist in conservation matters or controversies. One such example of real merit, recently brought to my attention, shows how such groups can help further the causes of conservation. The Cleveland County Bird Club of Norman, Oklahoma, passed a resolution to petition and to urge the active support of both the United States and international conservation organizations for the establishment of cloud forest preserves for the preservation of the Quetzal in Mexico and Guatemala. The Quetzal, one of the most colorful and beautiful birds of the world, is found only in the cloud forests of Middle America and its habitat is sadly being lumbered. It shares these forested areas with another endangered species, the Horned Guan, whose existence is also being threatened.

The exquisitely ornate Quetzal is truly a species of historical significance and symbolic of freedom and liberty throughout Middle America, from pre-conquest eras down to the present day. So much so that the Guatemalans believe the Quetzal quickly dies of a broken heart when maintained in captivity.

Unfortunately, in addition to suffering encroachment of its habitat, the Quetzal is hunted illegally, even in preserves. It is preyed upon for its four colorful upper tail coverts which in breeding males grow into long, shimmering green plumes. Apparently such traffic has established a black market for these plumes in Guatemala. In decided contrast, the ancient tribes worshipped the Quetzal and obtained its long plumes for ceremonial uses, but they plucked only the living bird and then released it to grow more feathers. Thus, not only should sanctuaries be established for this species but stern laws enacted and enforced to prohibit the exportation of Quetzal feathers.

Whether you may or may not be concerned over the plight of the Quetzal, you still may wonder what an organization can do to help or how you could assist individually. Organizations, such as T.O.S., and individuals may take positive action to back the Cleveland County Bird Club in its resolution by urging people everywhere to support the proposal, disseminating information on the Quetzal's plight, and requesting international agencies such as World Wildlife Funds, National Wildlife Federation, and others, to establish facilities and areas for the training of the native personnel in Middle America in matters of conservation and the protection of the Quetzal.

—Dept. Biology, The University of Dallas

NEWS

This year the Parks and Wildlife Commission opened to **White-winged Dove hunters** an area formerly designated as a sanctuary. This area, south of U. S. Highway 83 and 381 to the Rio Grande River, begins at the Starr-Zapata County line and extends to the west city limits of Brownsville. The area is about 120 miles long.—Texas Parks & Wildlife Department News

Dr. **William B. Stallcup, Jr.**, chairman of the department of biology at SMU and a charter member of the TOS, will serve in New Delhi for two years as consultant to the Indian government's teacher training institute program.

In an effort to reduce **surplus elk** population, hunting is permitted in Grand Teton National Park during the 1967 season. By mutual agreement with the Park Service the State of Wyoming will issue 2,500 hunting permits.—Nat. Aud. Soc.

It appears that **Rampart Dam,** which would have created in Alaska a reservoir 400 miles long and 80 miles wide, and destroyed more wildlife than any water project in history, is now a dead issue.—Nat. Aud. Soc.

The **Corpus Christi Outdoor Nature Club** donated $500.00 to the Audubon Sanctuary Fund in memory of Hazel Preil. This gift entitled the National Audubon Society to receive $250.00 in matching funds from the Ford Foundation.

Leon B. Levy retired this summer as the editor of the Corpus Christi Outdoor Club Newsletter.

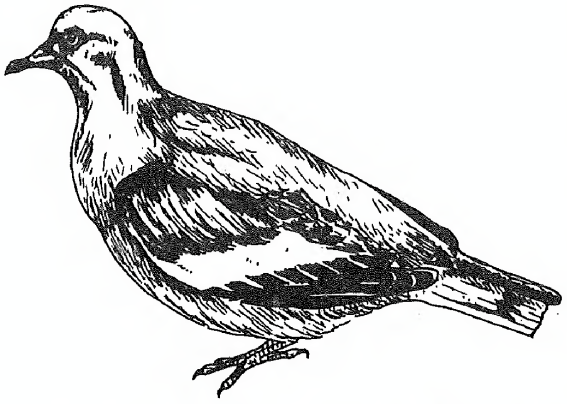
This year marks the beginning of the **Ft. Worth Zoological Association's Zoo Journal.** The first issue was published in June and contains, among other things, an article by William C. Orr, Jr. on the 23 species of birds of prey in the Ft. Worth Zoo.

Because of the paucity of significant summer sight records, sight records ordinarily published in a separate section of the Bulletin are assembled below. Sight Record editors are Fred Webster and Frances Williams.

KENTUCKY WARBLER, Arlington, May 13, (B. Mack); HUDSONIAN GODWIT, Lake Pat Cleburne, May 17, (J. M. Smith, M. Parker, J. Lowe, et al.); BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS, Lake Pat Cleburne, May 21, (B. Mack); NORTHERN PHALAROPES, Austin, May 25, (M. A. McClendon); RED-NECKED GREBE, Galveston Bay, May 4, (L. Snyder); BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD, Welder Refuge, March 29-May 10, (C. Cottam); HUDSONIAN GODWIT, Eagle Mtn. State Fish Hatchery, May 4, (J. Lowe et al.); LEAST BITTERN, Lake Worth Fed. Fish Hatchery, May 6, (C. Crabtree et al.); AMERICAN BITTERNS, Eagle Mtn. State Fish Hatchery and Lake Worth Fed. Fish Hatchery, May 6, (C. Crabtree, B. Mack et al.); WORM-EATING WARBLER, Ft. Worth, (M. Randolph et al.); VERMILION FLYCATCHERS (nesting), Midland, no date, (T. Jones); COMMON GALLINULE, Lubbock, July 31, (R. Powell and K. Rylander); BROWN PELICAN, West Beach, Galveston Island, July 2, (E. Flickinger); FULVOUS TREE DUCKS, El Campo, July 5, (E. Flickinger): ROCK WREN (nesting), Falcon Dam, early June, (P. James et al.); WESTERN KINGBIRDS (nesting), Pan American College Campus, (P. James); SWAINSON'S HAWK (nesting), Hebbronville, July 2, (Mr. & Mrs. O. C. Bone); HOUSE FINCHES (nesting), Premont, June 28, (Mr. & Mrs. F. Witcher, J. Boerjan, R. Albert et al.); CACTUS WREN, Amarillo, July 14, (L. and R. Galloway)

The man who has confirmed that the **Ivory-billed Woodpecker** is not extinct is John V. Dennis who, working under contract for the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife, found "several pairs" in eastern Texas. A full account of the extraordinary discovery, and of plans for protection of the big birds and the habitat they need has been written by Mr. Dennis for the November/December issue of **Audubon Magazine.**—Aud. Leader's Conserv. Guide.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists report that during the 1967 season hunters killed 356,325 **White-winged Doves** and 102,272 **Mourning Doves** in Texas.



Another 200 **Afghan White-winged Pheasants** were released in corn and alfalfa acreage in Bailey County in mid-August, according to Joe Davidson, exotic bird specialist for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.—Tex. Parks & Wildl. Dept. News

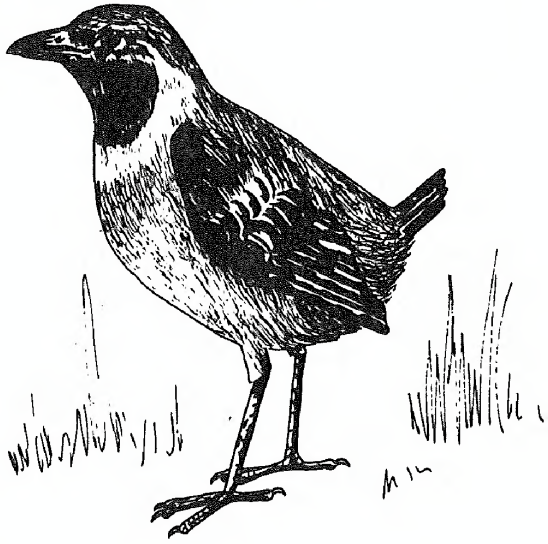
The following field trips are planned for Ocotber and November: CURRIE RANCH, TANGLEWOOD. (Oct. 1, Tex. Panhandle Aud. Soc.); ABRAMS (CARUTH) SANCTUARY. (Oct. 1, Dallas County Aud. Soc.); DALLAS AREA. (Oct. 7, D. C. A. S.); WEST ISLAND, DALLAS. (Oct. 14, D.C.A.S.); POLLARD RANCH, WIMBERLEY. (Oct. 8, Travis Aud. Soc.); KERRVILLE REGION. (Oct. 14, T.A.S.); AUSTIN AREA. (Oct. 28, T.A.S.); EAGLE LAKE REGION. (Nov. 4, T.A.S.):

The Texas Chapter, **Nature Conservancy** announced the following officers August 29: Edward C. Fritz, president; Campbell Loughmiller, 1st vice president; Dr. Hans Suter, 2nd vice president; Mrs. Howard (Mary) Kittell, 3rd vice president; Ralph D. Churchill, secretary; Mrs. Norma Stillwell, assistant secretary; and E. W. Mudge, Jr., treasurer.

Dr. **Keith Arnold** of Texas A&M will present his studies on wrens, Nov. 21, to the Dallas County Audubon Society.

The Texas Nature Conservancy held a luncheon and annual meeting at Ramada Inn, College Station, August 29 at noon during the meetings of the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS). All persons interested in conservation in Texas were invited to attend the luncheon, at which Charles H. W. Foster, national president of the Nature Conservancy, and former Commissioner of Conservation for Massachusetts, spoke on progress in private preservation of natural areas.

Texas was represented at the 85th meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, Toronto, Ontario August 21-25 by the presentation of two scientific papers: "**Black-faced Antthrush**" by L. Irby Davis, Harlingen, and "**Appendicular Muscles of the Scolopacidae**" by Kent Rylander, Lubbock.



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Smithe, Frank B. THE BIRDS OF TIKAL. 350 pp. Natural History Press: Garden City. 1966. (Copy in TOS Library). *Published for the American Museum of Natural History as a handbook to the birds of the Tikal in Guatemala, this field-guide sized volume is useful for much of the lowlands of Central America. Detailed descriptions of the* 280 *species of birds presently known from the area include* 100 *which are illustrated by the color paintings of H. Wayne Trimm.*—(John L. Tveten)

Bond, James. BIRDS OF THE WEST INDIES. 256 pp. Houghton Mifflin Co: Boston. 1961. (Copy in TOS Library) *The original and exciting James Bond thriller, with a superb cast. All of the more than* 400 *species of birds known to occur regularly in the Caribbean islands are described. Eighty of these are portrayed in color by the incomparable Don Eckelberry, with another* 186 *nicely displayed as line drawings by Earl Poole.*—John L. Tveten

Midland Naturalists, Inc. BIRDS OF MIDLAND COUNTY, TEXAS. 5th ed., June, 1967.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. BIRDS OF FALCON STATE RECREATION PARK. Research Planning Division: Austin.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. PRELIMINARY CHECKLIST OF THE COMMON BIRDS OF DAVIS MOUNTAINS STATE SCENIC PARK. Research Planning Division: Austin.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. BIRDS OF THE BENTSEN-RIO GRANDE VALLEY STATE SCENIC PARK. Research Planning Division: Austin.

(*COMMON RAVEN—Continued from Page* 4)

was on a high ridge with gently sloping ground on two sides. Formerly there had been an underground cavern but the roof had collapsed at one small place leaving a rounded oval hole about 30 by 40 feet in diameter and approximately 60 feet deep. One side of this sink hole was nearly vertical but the other three sides rapidly arched back to a large cavity under the ledge at the surface. About 30 feet down and approximately 35 feet back from the edge of the surface opening and 32 measured feet from the bottom was a small ledge. The ravens had managed to wedge a sufficient amount of sticks and other trash on this small space to make their nest. The most unusual thing about this location was that the ravens had to dive down into this hole and then curve up under the overhanging roof to get to the nesting ledge. Ropes and an extension ladder were necessary to get down to the bottom of the sink and then up to the nest to examine it. It was well lined with wool and bits of burlap and contained six eggs which appeared to be incubated.

The first nest observed in Kerr County was in a large crevice mid way up a cliff approximately 90 feet high. This nest contained at least three young on May 15, 1956.

Apparently the raven population in the Edwards Plateau is gradually increasing. I found the fifth nesting pair in this county, April 12, 1967. The nest contained three or four young which did not fledge until late May. — *Kerrville, Texas.*

Migratory Pathways In The Gulf Of Mexico Region

A Review by
BILL J. FORSYTH

INTRODUCTION

Some investigators have proposed that numerous species of birds in North America migrate to and from the wintering grounds by crossing the Gulf of Mexico and others have shown that many species migrate around it overland or along the coast. Cooke (1904) and Stevenson (1957) among others have indicated that some members of a particular species utilize the trans-Gulf route while other members of the same species travel a circum-Gulf route. Cooke (1904 and 1905) proposed that small landbirds depart and return to the United States by four migration routes in the Gulf of Mexico Region: (1) Florida to Cuba; (2) Western Florida to Yucatan; (3) northern coast of the Gulf of Mexico southward; and (4) Texas to Mexico by land. Based on the evidence at his disposal, Cooke believed that the great majority of migrants utilized routes 2 and 3 across the Gulf of Mexico rather than the overland and coastal routes 1 and 4. This concept that great numbers of North American migrants including many species of non-pelagic birds regularly fly across the Gulf of Mexico in their annual spring and fall migrations was generally accepted for many years. However, the existence of the trans-Gulf route as a major flight lane was challenged over two decades ago by Williams (1945, 1947 and 1950) on the basis that supporting evidence was lacking. Williams in turn maintained that there was abundant evidence indicating that large numbers of birds followed the coastal routes around the eastern and western perimeters of the Gulf. Since then a wealth of data concerning the nature of migration in the Gulf Region has been published.

The subject of Gulf migration is a vast and complex one to say the least, and a detailed account of its many ramifications is beyond the scope of this short paper. Therefore, it is limited for the most part to a brief account of evidence published in support of both trans-Gulf and circum-Gulf migration.

TRANS-GULF MIGRATION

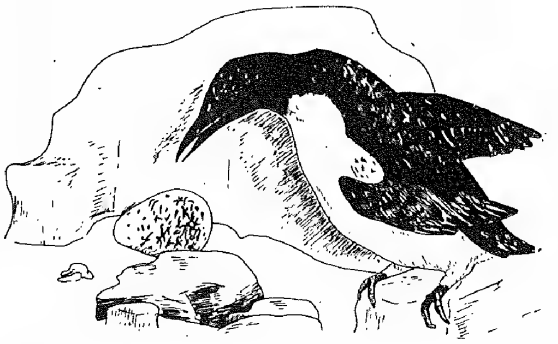
Indirect Evidence

Cooke (1904) based his trans-Gulf theory primarily on two types of indirect evidence: (1) distributional data which showed that many species that migrate between the Gulf States and Central and South America were rare in eastern Mexico and southern Florida; (2) the sequence of arrival dates for certain species along the

(*Continued on Page* 16)

REPORTS

By using tape recorded calls, European workers have shown that before hatching, young **Murres** reply to the call of virtually any adult Murre but that while hatching they learn the calls of their own parents and used sound rather than sight as the principle means of recognizing their parents.—Verh. Schweiz. Natur. Ges., 1964



Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists report the following results from their survey: no change in the breeding population of **Mourning Doves** from last year; a 17% decline in the breeding population of **White-winged Doves** in the lower Rio Grande Valley; and a 200% increase in the past three years of **Lesser Prairie Chickens.** Studies of the Attwater Prairie Chicken near Victoria revealed that breeding males remained within one half mile of their booming grounds during February and March and that this population has almost a 100% preference for leafy vegetation.—Texas Parks and Wildlife Department News

In an extensive bird-banding study of the migration of the **Little Blue Heron,** Julian L. Dusi at Auburn University (Alabama) determined that migrations consist of three parts: a dispersal from the nesting colony area, a southward or autumnal movement and a return northward to breeding colony areas in the spring. Young birds banded at Anahauc, Tex. were recovered at Ft. Worth, Baytown, Alvin, Nacogdoches, Tyler, Tex. and Shelbyville, Ind.; and a bird banded at Columbus, Tex. was recovered at Jennings, La., indicating the irregular dispersal habits of these birds after the breeding season (post-nuptial wandering).— Wil. Bull., 1967

In an attempt to mark birds for experimental purposes, R. P. Coppinger and B. C. Wentworth grafted the bird's pollex (a feathered structure at the front of the wing which probably corresponds to the thumb) on the crown, where it continued to produce feathers. —Bird-Banding, 1966

The earliest known reference to the chicken is from **India,** about 2500 B.C. It spread to **Mesopotamia** by 2200 B.C. and to **Egypt** by 1850 B.C. These are dates estimated by some British workers.—Ibis, 1966

The major nest predator of the White-winged Dove in south Texas is the **Boat-tailed Grackle.** David R. Blankenship of Weslaco found that by shooting all of the Grackles from a woodland near Brownsville the average number of young White-wings fledged from this area increased 200% over the best year without Grackle control. —Trans. 31st N. Am. Wildl. & Nat. Resources Conf.) 1966

Penguins are now being banded with **Teflon** which is better than metal bands because there is less plumage wear and less band loss due to metal fatigue. —J. Wildl. Mgmt., 1966

American **Robins** which were experimentally **deafened** when young developed abnormal syllables in their songs. —Zeits. f. Tierpsychol. 22:584.

Herbert W. Kale II has studied some of the beliefs concerning the value of **Purple Martins** in **mosquito control** and presents the following conclusions: (1) Mosquitoes are a negligible item in the diet of the Purple Martin; (2) behavior patterns of mosquitoes and martins are such that mosquitoes are not flying in martin feeding areas when martins are active; contact between the two is minimal during daylight hours; (3) none of the published statements appearing in the popular ornithological literature which attribute a mosquito-feeding habit to the purple martin is based on a factual study; the often-quoted statement the "martins eat 2,000 mosquitoes per day" has no evident means of support.—A.O.U. meeting, Toronto, Aug., 1967.

Persons having **hummingbird feeders** are advised not to use honey in the feeders, as this can be fatal to hummingbirds. Also, the proper concentration of the sugar solution should be approximately one part of sugar to five parts of water.

In studying the **drinking habits** of **desert birds** Allan Gubanich reports that White-winged Doves and Mourning Doves visit water holes frequently, sometimes three or four times a day. They will use more than one water hole and they travel as far as twelve miles to reach water. Other species such as the Verdin, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, and Cactus Wren are not dependent upon this free water for survival.—A.O.U. meeting, Toronto, Aug., 1967.

Turkey Vultures were observed **killing** and eating a tethered House Sparrow and a tethered Rock Dove. This is apparently the first substantial published record of this species attacking living prey, although predation has been reported from Black and King Vultures. —Auk 84:430.

A **Cowbird** was observed to fly to the nest of a Black-throated Green Warbler which held three young warblers and one young cowbird, each about three days old. The female cowbird flew to the nest, reached into the nest and flew away carrying a nestling warbler by grasping it with its bill. It then dropped the young warbler, thereby killing it.—Auk 84:422.

Edwin D. Michael at Stephen F. Austin State College, Nacogdoches has reported observations on the **behavioral interactions** between **birds** and **deer.** These birds include wild Turkeys, Turkey Vultures, Black Vultures, Bald Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks, Cattle Egrets, Laughing Gulls, Ash-throated Flycatchers, Roadrunners, and other birds. —Condor 69:431.

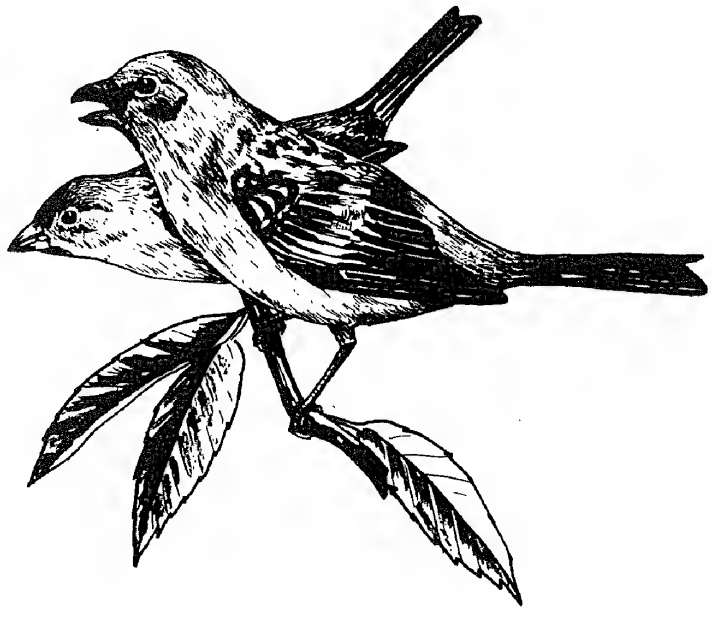
The **Fulvous Tree Duck** is currently extending its wintering range in the eastern United States and has even been reported from the Sargasso Sea. This is the first report of this fresh water duck at sea.—Auk 84:424.

Nesting of the Varied Bunting in South Texas

TRAVIS C. MEITZEN

In view of the paucity of information concerning the nesting habits of the Varied Bunting, Passerina versicolor, it seems worthwhile to report a nest found in Maverick County, Texas, on 10 May 1964. The general location was a gently sloping arid hillside, sparsely covered with scattered thorn bushes. The ground was loose sand and rocky and was nearly bare except for a few clumps of grass and the scattered bushes. Only the female was observed in the area and no call notes were heard.

Examination of the bush disclosed a nest about 200 mm. (8 inches) above the ground in the lower branches of the thorn bush which was about ½ meter (19 inches) in height and well covered with a dense foliage of green leaves. The nest was well concealed from above and from three sides but was clearly visible from an open side of the bush. The base of the nest was constructed of dry grass blades and small stems and was rather untidy with many stems protruding at a tangent for 75mm. (3 inches) or more from the main cup of the nest. The inner nest was neatly made of thin dry grass with a lining of fine grass and horse hairs. The outer measurements of the nest were 65 mm. in height and 84 mm. in diameter; the inner cup was 34 mm. deep and 43 mm. in diameter. The nest contained four bunting eggs and one egg of the Brown-headed Cowbird, Molothrus ater. The bunting eggs were very pale blue and immaculate. Three appeared to be heavily incubated and the fourth had a claw hole in it and was addled.—Box 551, Refugio, Texas.



"Beulah" Moves the T.O.S. to Beaumont

Among the casualties of Hurricane Beulah in the Rio Grande Valley is the fall meeting of our society. As everyone knows, it had been scheduled for Brownsville for the Thanksgiving weekend. Due to the damage to the Fort Brown Hotel, roads, our prospective hosts' homes and businesses, etc., we have moved the location of the fall meeting to Beaumont for the same Thanksgiving weekend.

We will be headquartered at the Ramada Inn and the official schedule is as follows:

Thursday, Nov. 23: Registration 2:00 P.M. through the evening
Informal reception 7:00 through the evening

Friday, Nov. 24: Field trips 7:00 all day
Board of directors meeting 6:30 P.M.

Reception followed by dinner and program 7:00 P.M.

Saturday, Nov. 25: Field trips 7:00 all day

Program 8:00 P.M.

Sunday, Nov. 26: Field trips for those who do not have to hurry home.

There are four other very nice motels in the immediate vicinity of the Ramada Inn, for those who do not want or cannot get reservations at the headquarters motel. These are the Holiday Inn, Ridgewood Motel, Roadway Inn, and the Castle Motel. I suggest that everyone write now for reservations as we will not have any block of rooms set aside for the T.O.S. and things may fill up over the holiday season.

As far as the bird watching is concerned, I think I can promise some very rewarding field trips. These will include the Anahuac Wild Life Refuge (Whistling Swan, Ross' Goose, Yellow Rail last winter), the Bolivar Peninsula and East Bay, the outstanding salt water marsh at Sabine Pass (Black Rail here at the T.O.S. meeting several spring ago, Seaside and Sharp-tailed Sparrows), and the piney woods north of Silsbee for those who have not seen such characteristic birds as the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Bachman's Sparrow, and Brown-headed Nuthatch.

All in all it promises to be an excellent meeting with good programs, excellent birding and a chance to see T.O.S. members from all over our state. Plan now to be here.

William J. Graber III, M.D.

Pres. Texas Ornithological Society

Eskimo Curlew Valid Records Since 1945

NOEL PETTINGEL

On March 29, 1964 the following species—three of the world's rarest birds—were all in southeast Texas, less than 250 miles apart: Ivory-billed Woodpecker (Big Thicket), Eskimo Curlew (Galveston Island), and Whooping Crane (Aransas Refuge). All are on the critical list but whereas the chances of continued survival for the Ivory-bill and Crane seemed better than ever in 1967, there were no such assurances for the Curlew since there have been no reports of its being seen after March 29, 1964. However, because Eskimo Curlews have been seen along the Texas coast from Galveston to Rockport as early as March 22 and as late as April 29 it is quite conceivable that the entire population could complete its northward migration undetected for several years inasmuch as it is impossible for bird watchers to thoroughly cover some 175 miles of coastline from dawn to dusk throughout a 39-day period. There is also the possibility that favorable winds prevailed when the Curlews reached the Texas coast, thus allowing them to continue non-stop until they found more suitable feeding grounds far inland.

At any rate, anyone interested in participating in the 1968 Curlew Watch on Galveston Island should contact Nancy or Jerry Strickling in Houston. The more watchers, the better the chances of another series of valid records being added to the following list:

1. April 29, 1945. GALVESTON I., TEXAS. 2 birds/ 3 observers. Seen with Whimbrels at under 100 yds./ 8x glasses/ 1 hr. (Auk. Oct. 1965. Vol. 62, No. 4: p. 635.)
2. April 27, 28, 29, 1950. ARANSAS BAY, 1 mi. S. of ROCKPORT, TEXAS. 1 bird/ Conger N. Hagar and Miss Dorothy E. Snyder. Seen with Long-billed Curlews and Whimbrels for 30 min. by CNH & DES 4/27 & 4/28; DES only 4/29. Note: Peterson's Texas Guide (1960) erroneously states "April 1952" (pp. 99 and 278). (Auk. July, 1965. Vol. 82:3. pp. 493-496.)
3. June, 1956. About 35 mi. NE of CHARLESTON, S.C. near inner point of Raccoon Key. 1 bird/ E. Milby Burton. Seen with Whimbrels. (Auk. July, 1965. Vol. 82:3. pp. 493-496.)
4. July 15, 1956. FOLLY I., about 12 mi. S. of CHARLESTON, S.C. 1 bird. adult male in summer plumage/ Francis M. Weston and Ellison A. Williams. (Auk. July, 1965. Vol. 82:3. pp. 493-496.)
5. March 22-April 26, 1959. GALVESTON I., TEXAS. possibly HIGH I., TEXAS 4/26. 1, possibly 3, birds/ 20 observers. (Auk. July, 1965. Vol. 82:3. pp. 493-496; Auk. Oct. 1959. 76:4. pp. 539-541; Aud. Mag. May-June, 1962. 64:3. pp. 162-165.)
6. September 20, 1959. COAST GUARD RECEIVING CENTER near CAPE MAY, N.J. 1 bird/ Lovett E. Williams, Jr. Studied nearly an hr. up to 15 ft. away. (Auk. July, 1965. Vol. 82:3. pp. 493-496.)
7. April 3-6, 1960. GALVESTON I., TEXAS. 1 bird/10 observers. (Auk. July, 1965. Vol. 82:3. pp. 493-496; Aud. Mag. May-June, 1962. Vol. 64:3. pp. 162-165.)

(*Continued on Page* 21)

(*SCIENTIFIC NAMES—Continued from Page* 3)

Again, the rules for accenting words varies from one language to another, but even among English-speaking ornithologists persons are at odds on the pronunciation of many scientific bird names.

Basically, there are two schools of thought on placement of the accents in scientific names. The first school would emphasize consistency in pronunciation by accenting the antepenultimate syllable, *i.e.,* the second syllable before the last. The second school would place the accents to retain the stem(s) of the names. This method, of course, does not bring about a consistent placement of the accent.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of each system for accenting the names? The obvious and major reason for accenting the same syllable in all names is continuity. However, accenting the antepenultimate syllable has two very serious disadvantages. First, many names become awkward for pronunciation when this syllable receives the accent. The often-used specific epithet *americanus* is a good example. This word must be pronounced "a-may-rikka-nus" under the antepenultimate system and it is a very difficult mouthful. Secondly, this system often obscures the meaning or the derivation of a name, particularly those named after a place or person. Audubon's Warbler, *Dendroica auduboni,* will serve as a good example. By accenting the antepenultimate syllable the specific epithet would be pronounced "au-du-bon-eye" a pronunciation without a clearcut reference to the famous bird-artist honored by the describer of this warbler. To further illustrate these points, consider the Whistling Swan (*Olor columbianus*), the Greater Yellowlegs (*Totanus melanoleucus*), and the Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammospiza caudacuta*). The specific epithets of these birds become "colum-bee-a-nus," "mel-a-no-lew-cus," and "caw-dak-yew-tah," respectively; all difficult to pronounce and all obscuring the meanings of the names. To be sure, there are many names that "sound good" when accented on the antepenult and whose meanings are not obscured by this method of accenting.

Those who favor the retention of the stem words in the pronunciation of scientific names have, I believe, the best argument. When a name is chosen by a person describing an animal or plant, most frequently there is a meaning in the proposed name whether it be to honor a person (or persons), to designate the region in which the described organism was discovered, or a term that indicates some outstanding feature of the organism. (Occasionally names have been selected that are nonsense names, but the present rules of zoological nomenclature forbid this practice to modern taxonomists.) Thus, we would say "aw-du-bon-eye," "co-loom-bee-a-nus," and "caw-dah-kew-tah." These pronunciations are much easier to utilize in speech and they all reflect the meanings of the names.

In North America, at least, the bird-watchers and ornithologists have a guide to pronunciation: the American Ornithologists' Union publication, *The A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds,* 5th ed. (1957, The Lord Baltimore Press, Baltimore). The tendency in this book is to retain a pronunciation that reflects the meaning of the name. It would be my hope that interested persons, whether amateur or professional, will follow the lead of this book and retain the meanings of scientific names in the pronunciation. —*Department of Wildlife Science, Texas A & M University, College Station,* 77843.

Texas coast during the spring was progressively later from north to south rather than south to north as one might expect. Cooke (1905) suggested that the early birds in northeastern Texas reached the northeastern coast of Texas by flying across the Gulf of Mexico in a single night carrying them farther north earlier than their counterparts which reach southern Texas via a slower land journey from Mexico. Lowery (1945) reached the same conclusion based on arrival dates and Stevenson (1957) using both sequence of arrival dates and comparative abundance of migrants around the Gulf Coast of the United States during the spring also concluded that many species were trans-Gulf migrants.

During the spring migration transient species of birds are precipitated in great numbers along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico following the passage of cold fronts (Burliegh 1944, Lowery 1945, Williams 1945 and 1950, and Forsyth 1967). Lowery (1945) believes that these birds are trans-Gulf migrants. When spring migrants over the Gulf meet the opposing north winds of a cold front, they have difficulty making headway and come down on the first available land. Following the frontal passage, when the wind shifts back to a southerly direction and the weather clears, the migrants resume their northward flight (Lowery 1945, Dennis 1954 and Forsyth 1967).

Conversely, during fair weather transient species are scarce in the coastal areas (Lowery 1945 and Dennis 1954). In view of this plus the fact that arrival dates of many transient species were earlier some distance inland than on the coast, Lowery (1945) proposed that, depending on the state of the weather, migrants arriving from over the Gulf either descend on the edge of the Gulf or fly far inland thus forming an extensive "hiatus" extending from the northern Gulf coast to several hundred miles inland in which "transient migrants are extremely rare, highly intermittent in their occurrence, or wholly absent during many consecutive spring migrations." Later, Lowery (1951) altered his original views concerning the "hiatus". He proposed that the scarcity of transients in this area was due to the dispersal of birds over a wide area. Lowery (*Ibid.*) also states, "I now question if appreciable bird densities on the ground ever materialize anywhere except when the sparseness of suitable habitat for resting or feeding tends to concentrate birds in one place, or when certain meteorological conditions erect a barrier in the path of an oncoming migratory flight, precipitating many birds in one place."

Direct Evidence

Direct observations of migrants flying over the open Gulf have been reported under various meteorological conditions (Frazar 1881, Helmuth 1920, Lowery 1946, Bullis and Lincoln 1952, Bullis 1954 and Lowery and Newman 1954). Stevenson (1957) referring to the 73 species listed by Lowery and Newman (1954) stated, "circumstantial evidence strongly indicated that the great majority of these were engaging in a true migration across the Gulf of Mexico". However, Williams (1945, 1950 and 1952) maintained that the only times appreciable numbers of birds were observed on the open Gulf was after the passage of a cold front and these were birds that had been blown out to sea. Williams (*Ibid.*) also proposed that many of the birds observed over the Gulf were too close to land to merit classification as trans-Gulf migrants.

Coastal observations of the arrival and departure of migrants during the migratory seasons suggest that these migrants were completing or beginning a migration across the open field. Van Tyne and Trautman (1945) reported numerous birds departing from the northern coast of Yucatan flying northward in the spring. Lowery (1946) reported notes made by Francis M. Weston of migrants departing from the coast near Pensacola, Florida, toward the open Gulf during fall migration and arriving from over the Gulf during spring migration. Other accounts of migrants arriving on the Gulf

Coast of the United States over water have been reported by Stevenson (1957) and Lowery and Newman (1959).

Telescopic observations of birds passing the lunar disc showed that during the spring large numbers of migrants initiate a northward trans-Gulf flight from Yucatan (Lowery 1946 and 1951). Yet, few incoming migrants were observed on the coast at Cameron and Grand Isle, Louisiana, and at Pensacola, Florida (Lowery 1951). Lowery (*Ibid.*) cited three factors mitigating against large northward flights on the northern Gulf Coast: (1) There is a directional fanning northward when the migrants depart from Yucatan on a 260-mile front and arrive at the northern Gulf shore on a front 400 miles or more wide; (2) The variation in departure times and the varying speeds of birds would disperse them more on the northern Gulf coast both in time and space; (3) The birds departing from Yucatan during the hours of heaviest flight, before 12 P.M., would reach the northern Gulf coast during the daytime rather than at night. Gauthreaux (1965), making telescopic observations of migrants passing the lunar disc at night and the zenith by day in conjunction with radar, found the majority of migrants arrived on the coast of Louisiana from over the Gulf during the daytime.

Lunar observations conducted during fall migration at Pensacola and St. George Island, Florida, and Pilottown and Grand Isle, Louisiana, showed that the majority of migrants observed were heading seaward apparently initiating a flight across the Gulf (Lowery and Newman 1966). They noted that "heavy migration is most frequently associated with following winds and wind usually seems to affect the direction of migration, even causing reverse movements on occasion . . . ." The data also suggested that the greatest part of migration through a given area occurs on relatively few nights.

CIRCUM-GULF MIGRATION

Indirect Evidence

Cooke (1904 and 1915) utilizing sequence of arrival dates and distribution data listed several species of birds that regularly migrate between their summer and winter homes around the eastern and western perimeters of the Gulf rather than across it. Using similar data Stevenson (1957) also found that many species of migrants utilize the circum-Gulf routes. Williams (1945) listed 56 species of non-pelagic birds that were more abundant in Texas and the Florida Peninsula or Keys than in Louisiana or northwestern Florida indicating that they migrate around the Gulf rather than across it. Williams (1950) proposed that the spring migration pattern in the southern United States consists of two widening triangles. The migrants using the western triangle enter Texas from eastern Mexico and fan out to the northeast through northeastern Texas, southeastern Oklahoma, Arkansas, northwestern Louisiana, and northwestern Mississippi into Tennessee. Those migrants using the eastern triangle move northward through the Florida Peninsula to Georgia wherein some turn northeastward up the Atlantic Coast and the others move northwestward across Alabama into Tennessee.

In contrast to the explanation offered by Lowery (1945), Williams (1950) believed that the concentrations of migrants along the coast following cold fronts were evidence for circum-Gulf migration rather than trans-Gulf migration. Williams (*Ibid.*) proposed that during a frontal passage the birds migrating through the western triangle are struck on their port beam by the approaching front which usually comes from a northwesterly direction forcing the migrants southeast across the coastal hiatus and to come down near the coast to prevent being blown out to sea. When this occurs the migrants flying along the entire width of the western triangle are compressed into the narrow coastal area. When an occasional cold front approaches from the northeast, birds migrating along the eastern triangle were thought to be swept southwestward. Thus, migrants moving northward in the two triangles would not enter the coastal hiatus except during frontal activity (Williams 1950).

Direct Evidence

The magnitude of overland and coastal spring migration around the Gulf of Mexico from the West Indies via Florida on the eastern perimeter and from eastern Mexico via Texas on the western perimeter has been confirmed by numerous observations. Observations of several species of migrants seen flying along the Gulf coasts of Florida and Texas indicative of circum-Gulf migration have been reported by Williams (1945 and 1950) and Stevenson (1957) among others.

Telescopic observations of migrants passing the lunar disc indicate that large numbers of birds migrate northward during the spring via overland and coastal routes. Lunar observations conducted on the eastern coast of Mexico, at Tampico, showed a relatively high density of migrants flying northward along the coast (Lowery 1951). Williams (1950) reported that about 90 per cent of the migrants observed during any one hour period passing the lunar disc in the Houston, Texas Area were flying in a northeasterly direction indicative of circum-Gulf migration. Similar directions of migration have been reported by Forsyth (1967) on the coast of Texas at Padre Island and Rockport as well as the Welder Wildlife Rufuge located a few miles inland. Observations conducted at Winter Park, Florida, indicate that nocturnal migrants tend to follow the slant of the Florida Peninsula (Lowery 1951). Lunar observations conducted during fall migration likewise indicate that numerous birds return to their winter quarters by circum-Gulf routes. Lowery and Newman (1966) found that on the coast of Texas the directions of migration closely paralleled the shoreline and in Florida the directions of migration tended to follow the slant of the peninsula.

CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY

There is no question that many species of migrants have the capability to fly across the Gulf of Mexico (Odum and Connell 1956 and Odum, Rogers, and Hicks 1964). This aspect has never been a problem.

Abundant evidence exists demonstrating that certain species of birds migrate across the Gulf while others migrate around it. Neither Lowery nor Williams ever denied this, yet this aspect has been the most common misconception involved in the controversy. The main difference is that Lowery maintains that the bulk of migration occurs across the Gulf, whereas Williams believes that the greatest magnitude of migrants utilize the circum-Gulf flight lanes.

Like all such controversies, this one has created a lot of interest in migration and in the Gulf area many studies have ensued. It is through such a process that sooner or later the intricate details of Gulf migration will be learned and in the process much knowledge will be obtained concerning migration in general.

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ESKIMO CURLEW—(*Continued from Page* 14)

8. March 31-April 3, 1961. GALVESTON I., TEXAS. 1 bird/ 12 observers. (Auk. July, 1965. Vol. 82:3. pp. 493-496.; Aud. Mag. May-June, 1962. Vol. 64:3. pp. 162-165.)

9. March 24-April 14, 1962. GALVESTON I., TEXAS. 4 birds/ approx. 30 observers. (Auk. July, 1965. Vol. 82:3. pp. 493-496.; Aud. Mag. May-June, 1962. Vol. 64:3. pp. 162-165.)

10. April 11-12, 1963. RATTLESNAKE PT. (LIVE OAK PENINSULA), COPANO BAY, 5 mi. NW of ROCKPORT, TEXAS. 1 bird/ 5 observers. Seen with 30x balscope at 120 ft. for 10 min. on April 11; 2 scopes—5 observers, April 11. (Auk. July, 1965. Vol. 82:3. pp. 493-496.; Aud. Field Notes, Aug., 1963. Vol. 17:4-P. 418.; The Spoonbill. April, 1967. Vol. 15:12—P. 3.)

11. September 4, 1963. Coast of BARBADOS, LESSER ANTILLES, eastern WEST INDIES. bird shot by hunter. (Aud. Mag. Sept.-Oct., 1965. Vol. 67:5. pp. 314-316.)

12. March 29, 1964. GALVESTON I., TEXAS. 3 mi. west of JAMAICA BEACH. 2 birds/ Jerry B. Strickling and J. Robert Deshayes. from about 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. (Aud. Field Notes. Aug., 1964. Vol. 18:4. p. 469.; The Spoonbill, April, 1964. Vol. 11:24. p. 5.)

—7146 *Ilex, Houston* 77017

BOOK REVIEW: OKLAHOMA BIRDS—THEIR ECOLOGY AND DISTRIBUTION, WITH COMMENTS ON THE AVIFAUNA OF THE SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS.

By George M. Sutton, Univ. of Oklahoma Press, Norman. 1967. $9.95.

When George Miksch Sutton was hardly thirteen he made a study of the breeding birds of the Ft. Worth area. I remember being impressed with this study when I, myself, was thirteen, not so much because it served as a useful guide to the birds of the area, but because it was a tacit testimonial of the energetic and serious approach this young birder had taken in studying birds. That is, what was more meaningful to me than the data was the obvious passion with which he collected the data and this served as a stimulus for my own enthusiasm in studying birds.

With the publication of Dr. Sutton's, *Oklahoma Birds,* almost half a century after he birded on "TCU Hill" and other parts of Tarrant County, I find myself likewise impressed with his erudition and scholarship. But what is perhaps as meaningful to me as the massive amount of data he has meticulously compiled is the intense love for birds which inspired him to write the book in the first place.

Dr. Sutton's contagious love for birds is obvious in his lectures, books and paintings. State bird books must necessarily come and go, and twenty years from now there very likely will be published another book on Oklahoma birds which will be more useful because it is more complete, thereby making much of the present book outdated. It will be difficult to surpass, however, Dr. Sutton's skill in conveying his excitement over studying even the most common and least spectacular of Oklahoma birds.

The core of the book is a catalog of dates and locations, in much the same sense as a telephone directory is a catalog of names, addresses and telephone numbers. This, after all, is what makes a state bird book useful to local ornithologists. Dr. Sutton did not choose to make the book an identification guide, as has been the case with many other state books. It is, in fact, doubtful if many serious birders would use it instead of the handier field guides for identifying uncertain species.

Each family of birds is introduced with a discussion of some of the characteristics and interesting facts and relationships of the family. The account of the species reported from Oklahoma includes information on status, distribution, nesting, specimens collected and their subspecific status, if applicable. The distribution of the species in neighboring states is cited (e.g. Col. Wolfe's checklist is used for Texas distribution), and much of the ecological and taxonomic discussion applies to birds whether they occur in Oklahoma or in other parts of the United States. Therefore the book will be of interest to ornithologists outside of Oklahoma.

Dr. Sutton has kept faithfully to a rather rigid format, and I wonder if such consistency actually adds to the value of the book. For instance, he cites the number of specimens of House Sparrow which have been collected from the following Oklahoma counties: Oklahoma, 7; Cleveland, 15; Marshall, 4; Canadian, 1; Custer, 1; Tillman, 1; Harmon, 1; and Cimarron, 1. One wonders just how useful this information is, considering the abundance of the House Sparrow. Measurements of the wings, tail, etc. as well as minor variations in plumage are cited for many of the birds which are in his collection, all of which is in keeping with the tradition of thorough, classical ornithological scholarship. I cannot help feeling, however, that the book would have been enriched had Dr. Sutton shared with us more of his extensive knowledge concerning the behavior, ecology and natural history of these birds in Oklahoma rather than given us so many details.

Although Dr. Sutton's position concerning the taxonomy of certain groups, such as the rails, coots, etc., is respectable, I doubt that a state bird book is the appropriate place to bring up the controversy.

Oklahoma Birds would be, I believe, a most useful book for the serious birder in Texas. Not only does it contain a wealth of information which is relevant to the study of birds in Texas (particularly the northern part of the state), but it also affords a glimpse of the enthusiasm with which this eminent ornithologist has responded to the birds of the Southwest—M.K.R.

NOTICES

On June 9th, our treasurer, W. Russell Weil, mailed reminder cards to those members who had not paid their 1967 dues. These, as you know, were payable April 1st, in advance. He expresses his appreciation for those who responded but less than one third did so. He asks that those not having renewed please do so now. If renewal is not desired, please return the card to him, so stating. Your support is needed and it is hoped that your dues for 1967 will be sent to him promptly. Thank you.

The eleventh fall meeting of the Arkansas Audubon Society will be held in Jonesboro, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday—October 13-14-15, 1967. Headquarters will be the Holiday Motel on U. S. 63 at 227 Gee Street. For information, write Mrs. Ralph H. Johnston, 2901 South Culberhouse Road, Jonesboro, Arkansas.

The 1967 annual report of the Committee on Conservation of the American Ornithologists' Union is available in duplicated form. This informative report will undoubtedly be published next year but Thermofax copies may be obtained by writing Kent Rylander, Department of Biology, Texas Technological College, Lubbock, Texas 79409.

Charles R. Shawl, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, Capitol Station, Baton Rouge, La. 70804 requests information regarding breeding colonies, population trends, etc. of the Brown Pelican in Texas and Louisiana.

Due to the length of several articles in this issue, Numbers 3 and 4 were combined. It is hoped that the delay of this issue has not inconvenienced anyone.

EDITORIAL: THE "NEW BIRDER"

There is a subtle movement spreading through the ornithological community which is so exciting that, while it may be premature to evaluate it at this time, I am inclined to comment upon it. I will even go so far as to call the prototype of this movement the "New Birder," although there are really no new ideas inherent in the movement, and the New Birder is by no means necessarily a young person. The movement may be called "new," however, if only because it appears as a new and fresh concept of how we can know birds.

The New Birder is recognized by 1) his tolerance for almost all, if not all, ways of responding to nature; 2) his desire to experience nature in unconventional and radical ways; and 3) his receptiveness to unconventional interpretations of nature. He tends not to adopt for himself conventional values if these values limit his experience or do not allow for experimentation in his quest for knowing nature.

In a sense, John James Audubon was a New Birder because he refused to adopt the limiting, stuffy museum-type ornithology and interpreted birds with a passionate esthetic sense while at the same time respecting the conventional approaches to ornithology of his day.

In this century we have certainly expanded and refined all of the approaches to ornithology which were developed during the past few centuries, such as birding, painting and scientific methodology. However, it seems only recently that a significant number of birders have seriously considered approaches to birds which are radically different from these conventional approaches. These birders are still nature lovers, birdlisters, taxonomists and perhaps painters, but every now and then they ignore traditional values and are wooed into experiencing birds in other ways.

To begin with, they are particularly sensitive to the limitations which knowledge and rationality place on experiencing nature. Unlike the 19th century romanticists who nostalgically yearned for their childhood spontaneity, the New Birders do not ponder excessively over what was lost or changed. They become spontaneous by momentarily disregarding or otherwise becoming independent of the ideas, facts and values which prevent them from seeing a bird directly, spontaneously and without bias. Imagine what a bird looks like when both the past and the future are totally disregarded. The bird obviously has no name and the colors are pure, simple and intense because you have no associations with color names, shades or hues and you make no connections, intellectual or emotional, between these colors and colors elsewhere in your life. The bird does not "fly," because the concept of flying is rational. It does not "sing," but you are aware of intense, audible sensations. The bird has no meaning except in relationship to itself and you at that very moment. The bird, which by now has lost all identity as a bird, is not doing anything or saying anything or becoming anything. It just unquestionably IS. You have completely divorced the experience of seeing the bird from all prejudices, values and ideas so that you come closer than ever to seeing it as it really is. Your love for the bird is incomparable, not because you are sentimentally attached to it (though there is nothing wrong with this), or because you believe for one reason or other that birds are good and should be loved (i.e., "everyone does"). You love it because you are fully aware at the moment that it is very real, like you, and is not just a physical substrate upon which you have hung your abstractions.

Some New Birders find to their surprise that they may become resilient to the monolithic cultural superstructure which can squelch one's emotional response to nature. They sense immediately that there is no such thing as the "degree" of one's emotional response; all responses, whether they seem to others subdued or highly exaggerated are in actuality all the same. Freed from society's dicta concerning how or how not to respond emotionally to nature, the New Birder may find himself crying profusely over a wounded bird (or not responding at all); laughing at the courtship of two birds; or running naked with the shorebirds on a muddy lake shore. Only those birders who are not totally enslaved by their cultural values will understand that the above behavior is neither strange nor exaggerated but rather represents a liberated and honestly individualistic response to birds. There are no rules, no logic, no values involved. This is just the way it is.

Since there is no past and no future, conservation is seen in a slightly different light. Conservation programs are not means to an end which is logically arrived at. Most conservationists respond to a possible future condition (e.g. the extinction of a bird) by logically devising some plan of action for the future. Many New Birders, while not exactly unaware of the future, respond instead to a present condition (e.g. an endangered species). The bird may or may not become extinct, depending perhaps upon the intensity with which the New Birder responds. The point is that the future is really of no concern to him. An analogous distinction might be made between a physician who treats a child because he wants the child to live and have a future, and one who, oblivious and unconcerned about the future, simply treats the child in order to correct the immediate illness.

These examples indicate a few of the approaches which some New Birders are taking. Upon reflection, it can be seen that it would not be inconsistent at all for a New Birder to respect and enjoy the traditional approaches, also. It is extremely likely, for example, that he would participate in a Christmas Bird Count with genuine excitement and enthusiasm. And obviously he would not stand in judgement of other birders' approaches to nature. — M.K.R.

TOS FALL MEETING

Beaumont, Texas, Nov. 23-26

Headquarters, Ramada Inn

Thursday, November 23

2:00 p.m. Registration begins: Ramada Inn, Beaumont
7:00 p.m. Informal reception at Ramada Inn

Friday, November 24

7:00 a.m. Field trip leaves from Ramada Inn
6:30 p.m. Board of Directors meeting
7:00 p.m. Informal party
8:00 p.m. Banquet and program (tentative speakers: Dr. Pauline James, Edinburg; Mrs. Connie Hager, Rockport)

Saturday, November 25

7:00 a.m. Field trip
8:00 p.m. Program

Sunday, November 26

7:00 a.m. Field trip (½ day)